

REMARKS

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 17, 2004. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended and new claims 9-13 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application do not introduce new subject matter, are fully supported by the specification, and are patentable over the prior art. Prompt and favorable consideration of these claims is earnestly sought.

In the Office Action claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,067,832 to Baur et al. (the '832 patent). In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the '832 patent, with respect to claim 1, discloses a modular printer including a media take-up module, a print head module, a step motor, a support block module, and a support body having a plurality of recesses configured to receive one of the modules at a position to align the module with the other modules of the printer where each of the modules is independently mountable to and detachable from the support body as an integral unit. In addition, the Examiner stated that, with respect to claim 2, the '832 patent discloses the support block defining an internal support frame within the printer, the plurality of recesses being formed in the support block, each of the modules is secured within one of the recesses, and the module projects outwardly from the support block. Further still, with respect to claim 3, the Examiner stated that the '832 patent discloses the motor and an electronic control device being supported or secured to the underside of the support block and the media take-up module and the print head module are being supported or secured to the upper side or a second opposite side of the support block. Finally, with respect to claims 4 and 5, the Examiner stated that the '832 patent discloses the use of an electric motor and an electronic control device that includes at least

one circuit board removably supported on the underside or first side of the support block for selective control operation of the printer.

As presently amended, claim 1 recites a modular printer including, *inter alia*, "a media take-up assembly module, a printhead assembly module, a motor assembly module, a support block assembly module, and a support body, the support body having a plurality of recesses, each of the recesses being configured to receive one of the assembly modules of the modular printer at a position to align the assembly module with the other assembly modules of the modular printer in an operational configuration" and "the support block assembly module includes a platen assembly, wherein the platen assembly is independently mountable to and detachable from the support block assembly." The '832 patent discloses a modular printer having accessory modules that are attached to a base frame on "receiver and bolting means 9, 10 or, respectively, 9a, 10a" as specified in Column 7, lines 1-2 of the '832 patent and illustrated in FIG. 2 reproduced hereinbelow. The receiver and bolting means disclosed in the '832 patent are not recesses as recited in amended claim 1, but are structures that protrude away from the base frame and are generally perpendicular to the base frame. Thus, the '832 patent specifically teaches away from a modular printer with a "support body having a plurality of recesses" and "each of the recesses being configured to receive one of the assembly modules of the modular printer" as recited in amended claim 1.

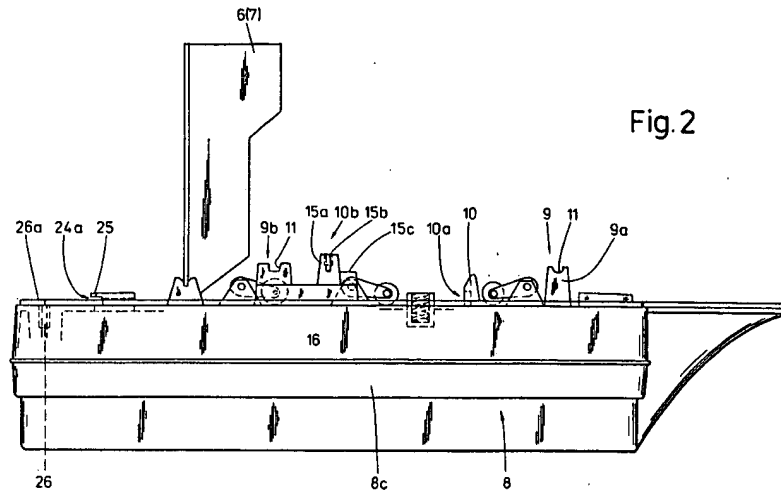


Fig. 2

Further still, the '832 patent does not disclose a support block assembly having a platen assembly that is "independently mountable to and detachable from the support block assembly" as recited in amended claim 1. The '832 patent specifically discloses that the print apparatus, the power supply, and the electronic control device form modular building blocks. There is no teaching or suggestion in the '832 patent to include a support block assembly having a platen assembly as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is neither anticipated nor suggested by the '832 patent and the rejection of the Office Action has been overcome. Claims 2-5 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1 and it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of these claims have been overcome as well.

In the Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over the '832 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,195,837 to Steppe et al. (the '837 patent). In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the '837 patent discloses a printer with a frame and casing made from aluminum and that it would have been obvious to modify the device of the '832 patent to include a support housing made of aluminum.

The '837 patent discloses a flexible heat bridge for connecting printed circuit cards in a printer. The '837 patent also discloses that aluminum may be used to form a frame or housing for use in a printer. As discussed hereinabove, the '832 patent does not teach or fairly suggest the modular printer recited in amended claim 1. Claim 6 depends from amended claim 1.

Adding the aluminum frame disclosed in the '837 patent to the '832 patent as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action does not overcome the deficiencies of the '832 patent and does not suggest the modular printer recited in claim 6. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 6 has been overcome.

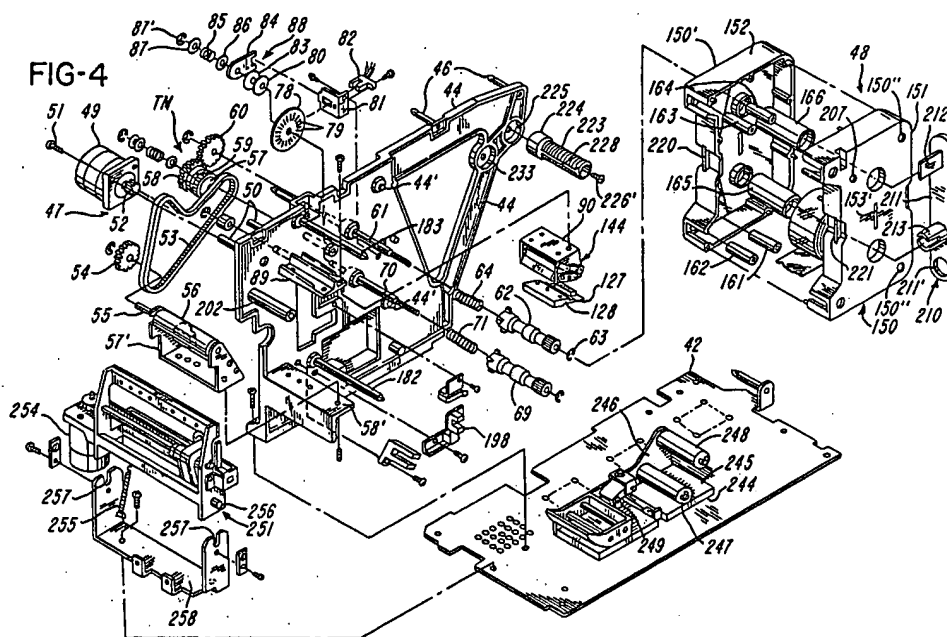
The Office Action rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over the '832 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,776,714 to Sugiura et al. (the '714 patent). In the Office Action, with respect to claim 7, the Examiner stated that the '832 patent does not disclose a removable display assembly, but considered that the keyboard disclosed in the '714 patent to be the display assembly recited in claim 7. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to modify the device of the '832 patent to include a removably mounted display assembly disclosed in the '714 patent.

The '714 patent discloses a printer having, *inter alia*, a keyboard removably mounted to the printer and a platen. As is known to one of ordinary skill in the art, a keyboard is a device for inputting data from a user while a display is a device for outputting data to a user. Thusly, the keyboard disclosed in the '714 patent is not "a display assembly removably secured to the support body" as recited in claim 7. As discussed hereinabove, the '832 patent does not teach or fairly suggest the modular printer recited in amended claim 1. Claim 7 depends from amended claim 1. Adding the keyboard disclosed in the '714 patent to the printer of the '832 patent as

suggested by the Office Action does not suggest the modular printer including as recited in claim 7. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 7 has been overcome.

Further still, with respect to claim 8, the Examiner stated that the '832 patent does not disclose a platen assembly module, but that the '714 patent discloses a printer including a platen assembly. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to modify the device of the '832 patent to include a platen assembly as disclosed by the '714 patent.

As disclosed in the '714 patent, the platen 56 is mounted on a shaft 55 having a toothed wheel 54 and retaining clip (not numbered) on one end where the shaft 55 of the platen 56 is disposed in a bracket 57' that is secured to a support 58' as illustrated in FIG. 4 reproduced hereinbelow and discussed in Column 3, lines 43-47. The platen, as disclosed in the '714 patent, is not "independently mountable to and detachable from the support block assembly while the support block assembly is mounted to the support body" as recited in amended claim 8.



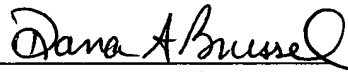
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As discussed hereinabove, the '832 patent does not anticipate or fairly suggest the device recited in amended claim 1. Claim 8 depends from amended claim 1. Adding the platen of the '714 patent to the printer of the '832 patent as suggested by the Office Action does not fairly suggest the modular printer as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 8 has been overcome.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application, namely claims 1-13, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner desire a telephonic interview to resolve any outstanding matters, he is sincerely invited to contact the undersigned at (631) 501-5713.

Respectfully submitted,

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Tel.: (631) 501-5713
Fax: (631) 501-3526


Dana A. Brussel
Reg. No. 45,717
Attorney for Applicants

DAB/jjp